

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7-20 are pending in this application, of which claims 13-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2-4, 8, 10 and 12 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be otherwise allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sandhu et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,108,943).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, among other things, “a straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode having a hollow cylindrical projection, an edge of the hollow cylindrical projection being located on an uppermost part of the straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode,” and “the edge of the hollow cylindrical projection being rounded and having a larger thickness than a thickness in a remaining portion of the hollow cylindrical projection”

Thus, the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 has a feature that the storage electrode has a hollow cylindrical projection, and the edge of the hollow cylindrical projection is rounded and has a larger thickness than a thickness in a remaining portion of the hollow cylindrical projection (see, e.g., FIG. 19).

Sandhu et al discloses the storage electrode having a hemisphere or mushroom-shaped poly.structure (see, e.g., FIG. 12, and column 5, lines 1-5). However, the storage electrode of Sandhu et al does not have a hollow cylindrical projection. Sandhu et al neither teaches nor suggests the hollow cylindrical projection having an edge located on the uppermost part of the storage electrode. Also, Sandhu et al neither teaches nor suggests the hollow cylindrical projection having the edge thereof rounded and/or having a larger thickness than a thickness in a remaining portion of the hollow cylindrical projection.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Sandhu et al. Claim 7, depending from claim 1, also patentably distinguishes over Sandhu et al for at least the same reasons.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandhu et al in view of Nam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,579).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Like claim 1, claim 9 recites “a straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode having a hollow cylindrical projection, an edge of the hollow cylindrical projection being located on an uppermost part of the straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode,” and “the straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode being formed of a metal film and having a larger thickness at the edge of the hollow cylindrical projection than a thickness in a remaining portion of the hollow cylindrical projection.” Claim 11 also recites “a straight cylindrical-shaped storage

electrode having a hollow cylindrical projection, an edge of the hollow cylindrical projection being located on an uppermost part of the straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode,” and “the straight cylindrical-shaped storage electrode being formed of a metal film and the edge of the hollow cylindrical projection being rounded.”

Nam et al discloses the storage electrode having a hollow cylindrical projection (see, e.g., FIG. 1). However, Nam et al neither teaches nor suggests the hollow cylindrical projection having the edge thereof rounded and/or having a larger thickness than a thickness in a remaining portion of the hollow cylindrical projection.

Thus, Nam et al does not remedy the deficiencies of Sandhu et al. Therefore, claims 9 and 11, depending from claim 1, patentably distinguish over Sandhu et al and Nam et al.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 011724
Serial No. 10/020,951

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadao Kinashi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sadao" and last name "Kinashi" clearly distinguishable.

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